

REMARKS

Applicants have received the certified copy of the German priority application No. 10259361.2 and is being mailed separately from this response. Applicants are providing herewith a certified copy of the English translation of the German priority document to perfect Applicants priority claim of December 18, 2002 that pre-dates the Boucard et al. publication date of January 23, 2003. Applicants respectfully submit that Boucard et al. is not prior art. As Boucard et al. is the basis for Examiners 103 (a) rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that the 103(a) rejections must fail.

Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the claims satisfy all requirements under Section 112 and define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, allowance of the application is requested. No additional fees are required. Nonetheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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